



Benton Fire Department

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"An Ounce of Prevention, is Worth a Ton of Water"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2020

Benton, Illinois – The City of Benton Fire Department is currently working closely with the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, and other stakeholders concerning the developing situation with COVID-19 Virus.

Your Benton Fire Department personnel may be seen wearing personal protective equipment including face shields, masks and gowns while responding to some requests for emergency medical services in the coming days and weeks. It is important for our citizens to understand that this is precautionary and in no way means that there is a confirmed case of any virus or disease in the Benton and Franklin County area.

We strongly encourage community members to take preventative measures to protect yourself and your loved ones from the threat of COVID-19. Please avoid shaking hands and touching your face, wash your hands with soap and warm water, remain at home if you are sick, and do your best to isolate yourself from others who are currently sick.

Education and current information are always critical when dealing with dynamic situations such as disease spread. An abundance of factual information and best practices are available at the following:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

United Way's 2-1-1 hotline. Call 2-1-1 for information and social services resources.
IDPH Coronavirus Hotline 1-800-889-3931

Yours in Service,

Shane Cockrum
Fire Chief
City of Benton